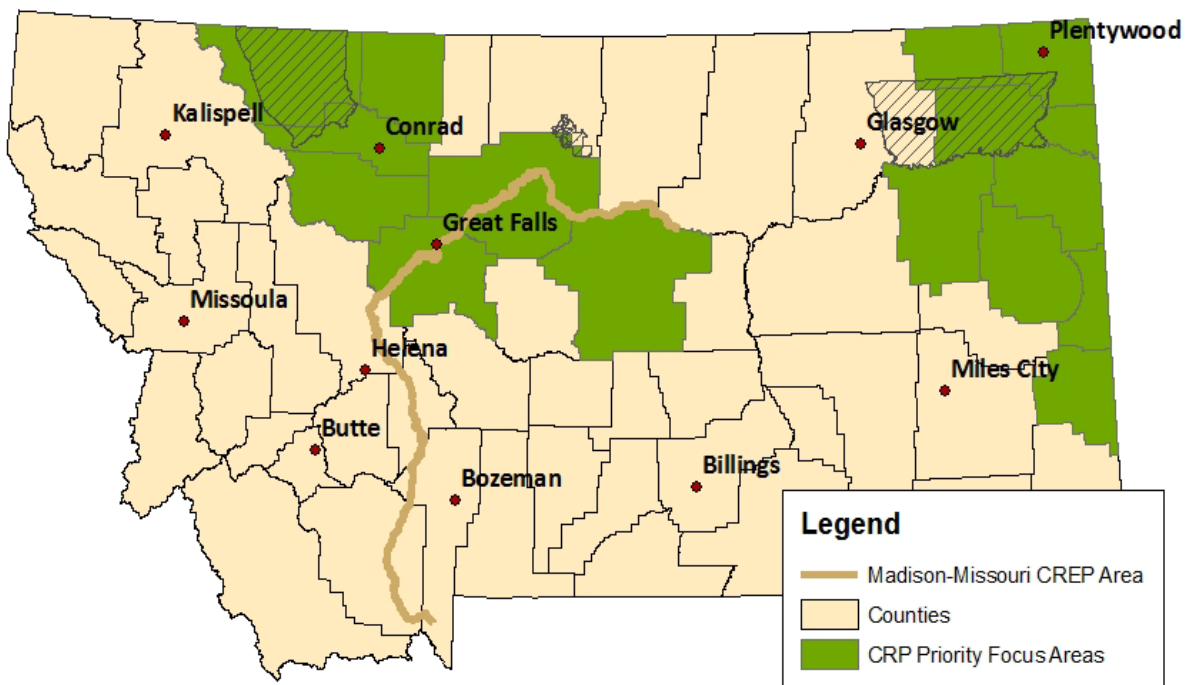




Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is offering a new program to eligible landowners enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Missouri-Madison River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The **Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters** is a pilot program that focuses on expanding public access on private lands for fall game bird hunting through building new partnerships with landowners. This voluntary program targets highly productive game bird habitats that are enrolled in CRP or CREP. Landowners enrolled in the program will receive a one-time lump sum payment of \$5/acre for each year the land is enrolled in the program, which is generally concurrent with the landowner's CRP contract. Enrolled lands will be clearly posted to identify the area open to walk in game bird hunting and will not require further permission from the landowner to access these sites.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 20, 2012**  
(See details at bottom of page 2)

Eligible CRP/CREP counties (green) outside of Indian reservations (cross-hatched)



**The following counties are eligible:**

- CRP counties: Cascade, Choteau, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Glacier, McCone, Pondera, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Teton, Toole, and Wibaux.
- Madison-Missouri CREP counties: Broadwater, Cascade, Choteau, Fergus, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, and Madison.

### Program Details

- FWP will pay an upfront, one-time payment: \$5/acre/year for 5 to 15 years, depending on your CRP contract length (Example: 160 acres, 10-year enrollment, one payment = \$8,000)
- Walk in game bird hunting allowed without further permission
- Must forgo emergency haying or grazing on the CRP lands enrolled in this program
- Applicants may receive a higher ranking score for enrollment when additional access acres are offered to help create clearly identified boundaries for managing walk-in access.
- Boundaries of enrolled tracts will be marked by FWP using standard program signs. Signs must be installed and remain in place for the entire length of the contract term.
- Location of the project will be published in the annual Upland Game Bird Access Guide as well as on FWP's website for the length of the contract term.
- Contracts will contain provisions for required pro-rated cost recovery in the event of landowner default, change of ownership, or similar events that prevent fulfillment of contract terms

### Program Eligibility

- Payment will be based on acres enrolled in CRP or CREP, maximum of 160 acres – private lands only
- New CRP enrollments from the 2012 sign-up are eligible
- Existing CRP contracts with 5 or more years left on the CRP contract are also eligible
- Acreage may not be actively enrolled in FWP's Block Management Program or the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program (UGBEP) at the time of applying. Additionally, the following scenarios do not qualify for Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters:
  - ❖ Lands that were enrolled in Block Management in 2011
  - ❖ Lands part of an active Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program project, unless the contract terminates on or before August 30, 2012
  - ❖ Lands immediately adjacent to a Block Management Area (BMA) that are owned by the same landowner who has land enrolled in the BMA

To qualify, submit your signed application with maps to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to the address at the bottom of the page. Maps should clearly outline:

- CRP fields offered
- Acreage open to free walk-in access

**Need more information?** Call Debbie Hohler, Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program Biologist, at 406-444-5674 or by email: [dhohler@mt.gov](mailto:dhohler@mt.gov)

Mail completed application and maps, ***postmarked no later than April 20, 2012*** to:

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks – Wildlife  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620**